

Message Text

PAGE 01 HONG K 00001 010904Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 OMB-01 CU-04 EB-11 /135 W

----- 126600

O R 010715Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9109

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0001

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJ: PRC'S 1974 NEW YEAR EDITORIAL: POLITICAL ASPECTS

SUMMARY. PEKING'S NEW YEAR EDITORIAL CENTERS PRIMARILY UPON DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS AND GIVES LITTLE ATTENTION TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PEKING'S NEW YEAR EDITORIAL MESSAGE FOR 1974 FOCUSES LIKE LAST YEAR'S PREDOMINANTLY ON THE NATION'S DOMESTIC PREOCCUPATIONS. IT IS A BRIEF PRONOUNCEMENT AND GENERALLY RESTRICTED TO A SELECTIVE CATALOGING OF FAMILIAR DEVELOPMENTS AND LINES OF THINKING, WITHOUT GREATLY EXPANDING ON THEM OR INTRODUCING MUCH THAT IS NEW. THERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE INSIGHTS TO BE HAD FROM THE EMPHASIS THAT IS GIVEN PARTICULAR THEMES, BUT THESE ARE SUBTLE AND UNDRAMATIC.

2. LAST YEAR'S MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT, THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 00001 010904Z

IS MODESTLY ACCLAIMED AND THAT EVENT CONTINUES TO SHOW LITTLE SIGN OF STIRRING GREAT EXHILARATION. THE CRITICISM OF LIN PIAO IS AGAIN SET FORTH AS THE PRIORITY POLITICAL TASK, INDICATING THAT THE AFTERMATH OF THAT STRUGGLE REMAINS TROUBLESOME. THE EDITORIAL

REITERATES THE LINE, WHICH EMERGED LAST YEAR, THAT LIN IS TO BE VIEWED AS AN ULTRARIGHTIST AND REVISIONIST AND, IN CALLING FOR "A CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION," IT UNDERScores THE PROBLEM WHICH THE REGIME STILL FACES IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN LIN'S CRIMES AND THE EXCESSES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

3. THIS UNSATISFIED NEED TO SORT OUT THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IS STRONGLY FEATURED IN THE EDITORIAL, AND THERE ARE REPEATED REFERENCES TO SUPPORTING, CONSOLIDATING, AND EXPANDING THE "NEW THINGS" WHICH THAT MOVEMENT PRODUCED. ATTACKS ON THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, BY "A HANDFUL OF CLASS ENEMIES," ARE FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED,

AND THE CITING OF A MAO DICTUM ON THE INEVITABILITY AND NECESSITY FOR STRUGGLE BETWEEN DIFFERENT VIEWS APPEARS TO ALLUDE TO THE DEBATES AND CONTENTIONS WHICH MARK THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE. THERE IS A CALL FOR RE-STUDY OF "THE IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS" GIVEN BY MAO DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION; THE PARTY CONGRESS CALL FOR "GOING AGAINST THE TIDE" TO RESIST "ERRONEOUS TRENDS OF THOUGHT" IS REITERATED AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF MASS CRITICISM IS AGAIN URGED. THE EDITORIAL DECLARES THAT A "NEW ATTACK" HAS BEEN MOUNTED ON BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY, AND THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE CONFUCIUS IS AUTHORITATIVELY SANCTIONED. THESE EXHORTATIONS TO MORE VIGOROUS POLITICAL STRUGGLE, HOWEVER, ARE BALANCED WITH AN ADMONITION TO OBSERVE PARTY DISCIPLINE AND TO OBEY THE NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION.

4. THE SHARPEST FEATURE OF THE EDITORIAL IS A WARNING IT DIRECTS AT THE INTELLECTUALS AND WHICH IT LINKS TO THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS DRIVE. QUOTING A MAO DICTUM, THE EDITORIAL EXPRESSES "HOPE THAT THEY (THE INTELLECTUALS) WILL NOT STOP HALFWAY, OR, WHAT IS WORSE, SLIP BACK, FOR THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE FOR THEM IN GOING BACKWARDS." ALLUDING TO CRITICISM BY STUDENTS WHICH AROSE LAST YEAR AND CONTINUES, THE EDITORIAL NOTES APPROVINGLY BUT TERSELY THAT "THE SCENE IN EDUCATION WAS ONE OF REVOLUTIONARY VIGOR." MODEL REVOLUTIONARY THEATRE, THE DOMAIN OF CHIANG CHING, IS ALSO SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE, BUT SHE LIKE THE OTHER REGIME FIGURES BELOW MAO IS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME. (PREMIER CHOU IS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 00001 010904Z

NOT MENTIONED ALTHOUGH THE MEDIA HAS BEEN FULL OF HIS NAME IN DISCUSSING THE POLITICAL REPORT HE DELIVERED TO THE PARTY CONGRESS.)

5. THE MILITARY COMES IN FOR ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE ATTENTION THAN IT DID LAST YEAR, AND THE EDITORIAL AGAIN EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR "VIGOROUS TRAINING," A TASK DIRECTED AT DRAWING THE MILITARY AWAY FROM POLITICS. INTERESTINGLY, THE MILITARY IS NOT CREDITED WITH ANY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR, EVEN IN TRAINING. INSTEAD, IT IS TOLD TO CONTINUE TO STUDY AND TO "STRENGTHEN ITSELF POLITICALLY, IDEOLOGICALLY, ORGANIZATIONALLY AND MILITARILY," AN ORDERING OF PRIORITIES WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE MILITARY IS STILL FOUND WANTING IN ITS POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND ITS RESPONSIVE-

NESS TO CENTRAL AND CIVILIAN DIRECTION. THE CONTROVERSIAL BUILD-UP OF THE URBAN MILITIA IS GIVEN PASSING MENTION, WITH A REFERENCE TO STRIKING AT ENEMIES "ENGAGED IN SABOTAGE."

6. NO SPECIFIC NEW POLITICAL TASK FOR 1974 IS SET OUT CLEARLY IN THE EDITORIAL. CURIOUSLY, IT OMITTS TO MENTION THE REBUILDING OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AND CARRIED FORWARD AS A SPECIFIC TASK IN 1973. THE EDITORIAL IS ALSO SILENT ON THE YOUTH-TO-THE-COUNTRYSIDE PROGRAM, WHICH PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE AND TROUBLESOME FEATURES OF THE 1973 SCENE. PERHAPS THESE ARE NETTLESOME ISSUES AND BETTER SKIRTED. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH TOP PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR SOME TIME, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ARE AGAIN GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT, AND IT APPEARS THAT POLICY GUIDELINES IN THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THE CONVENING OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (PROMISED "SOON" BY CHOU IN AUGUST) IS OBLIQUELY MENTIONED. BURIED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEXT IN A PARAGRAPH CALLING FOR EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN, THE EDITORIAL STATES SUCH ACIEVEMENTS SHOULD "GREET THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS," BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF TIMING.

7. ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, THE EDITORIAL BRIEFLY REVIEWS THE MAIN THEMES OF THE PAST YEAR: AN "EXCELLENT SITUATION" AGAIN MARKED BY CONTINUED "GREAT DISORDER;" THE "MYTHOF DETENTE" EXPLODED AND SUPERPOWER CONTENTION SHARPENED; AND THE EVOLUTION OF EUROPE AS THE "STRATEGIC FOCUS" WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD WORLD UNITY. REFLECTING THE NOW STANDARD DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH TO THE SUPER POWERS, THE US IS DESCRIBED AS "BESET WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HONG K 00001 010904Z

DIFFICULTIES AT HOME AND ABROAD" WHILE THE SOVIET UNION IS SAID TO HARBOR "WILD AMBITIONS" BUT TO LACK STRENGTH. REFERENCES TO INDOCHINA AND KOREA ARE ROUTINE AND INJUNCTIONS TO BE "PREPARED AGAINST WAR" AND "ENEMY INTRUDERS" ARE NOT KEYED TO STIR ALARM. IN THE SPIRIT OF CHOU'S REMARK ON THE SUBJECT TO THE PARTY CONGRESS, THE "LIBERATION OF TAIWAN" IS PROCLAIMED THE DUTY OF "THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY INCLUDNG THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN." FINALLY, IDEOLOGY IS FURTHER PURGED FROM THE DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS THE CURRENT EDITORIAL OMITTS LAST YEAR'S PLEDGES OF RESOLUTE SUPPORT FOR "REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES OF THE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES."

OSBORN

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY LINE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK00001
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzatc.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC'S 1974 NEW YEAR EDITORIAL: POLITICAL ASPECTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH
To: STATE INFO PEKING
MOSCOW
TAIPEI
TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

